

## Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-02 INR-10

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 SP-02 SS-15 AID-05

COME-00 EB-08 FRB-01 TRSE-00 XMB-04 OPIC-06

LAB-04 SIL-01 OMB-01 DOE-11 SOE-02 OES-07 /105 W

-----050703 100906Z /10

R 091218Z MAR 78

FM AMEMBASSY NDJAMENA

TO USIA WASHDC

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 6543

UNCLAS SECTION 1 OF 2 NDJAMENA 1006

USIAC

USIA FOR IAA

STATE FOR CU/AF, AF/W

E.O. 11652: N/A

SUBJECT: BILATERAL COMMUNICATION RELATIONSHIP

REF: COUNTRY PLAN INSTRUCTIONS

1. AS A FORMER FRENCH COLONY, CHAD HAS TRADITIONALLY BEEN LINKED BY COMMUNICATION AND EDUCATIONAL TIES TO FRANCE. THIS QUOTE LOVE-HATE UNQUOTE RELATIONSHIP WILL CONTINUE TO BE A FACT OF CHADIAN LIFE AS LONG AS CHAD REMAINS ECONOMICALLY AND CULTURALLY DEPENDENT ON FRANCE. HOWEVER, THERE HAS BEEN, AND WILL CONTINUE TO BE, A GRADUAL SEARCHING-OUT ON THE PART OF CHADIAN OFFICIALS FOR OTHER SOURCES OF SUPPORT -- EDUCATIONAL, CULTURAL AND ECONOMIC. THIS HAS LED TO AN ESSENTIALLY PRAGMATIC GOVERNMENT, ECLECTIC IN ITS STRATEGY, COMMITTED TO NO SPECIFIC IDEOLOGY, WILLING TO ACCEPT FROM VIRTUALLY ANYONE WHAT IT FEELS CAN BE OF BENEFIT TO THE COUNTRY. THIS  
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PRAGMATISM AND PRACTICALITY IMPLIES A SOLID COMMUNICATIONS BASE FOR U.S. GOALS AND OBJECTIVES. IDEAS WILL BE JUDGED ON THEIR OWN MERIT AND WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED OR REJECTED BECAUSE THEY CONFORM OR DO NOT CONFORM TO RHETORICAL IDEOLOGICAL PRINCIPLES.

2. THIS IS NOT TO SAY, HOWEVER, THAT CHADIAN AND

AMERICAN PERCEPTIONS ARE ONE AND THE SAME REGARDING OBJECTIVES AND GOALS. THIS REMAINS AN INFORMATION-POOR COUNTRY. OUTSIDE SOURCES OF INFORMATION ABOUT THE U.S. AND WORLD AFFAIRS REMAIN LIMITED. THE RADIO IS GOVERNMENT-CONTROLLED; THERE IS NO NEWSPAPER. A GOVERNMENT-ISSUED DAILY MIMEOGRAPHED BULLETIN IS THE ONLY SOURCE OF PRINTED QUOTE NEWS UNQUOTE. THERE IS NO TELEVISION. CHAD, BECAUSE OF ITS ISOLATION AND, UNTIL RECENTLY, LACK OF GEO-POLITICAL SIGNIFICANCE, HAS BEEN SLOW TO DEVELOP IN TERMS OF WORLD SOPHISTICATION. THUS, THERE REMAIN WIDE GAPS IN CHADIAN KNOWLEDGE OF AND ABOUT THE UNITED STATES. VERY FEW CHADIANS HAVE STUDIED OR VISITED THE UNITED STATES. FEW AMERICAN TOURISTS COME TO CHAD. THEREFORE, ACCESS TO, AND KNOWLEDGE OF, THE UNITED STATES IS LIMITED. ON THE OTHER HAND, THE NATURAL RECEPTIVITY AND OPENNESS OF THE CHADIAN COLLECTIVE PERSONALITY PROVIDES THE POST WITH AN AUDIENCE WHICH IS WILLING TO LISTEN TO WHAT IS BEING SAID AND CONSIDER IDEAS ON THEIR OWN MERITS. THE PRESENT GOVERNMENT HAS PUT NO RESTRAINTS ON POST PROGRAMMING AND HIGH-RANKING OFFICIALS OFTEN ATTEND AND PARTICIPATE IN POST PROGRAMS.

3. CHAD IS UNDERGOING A LOW-KEY AUTHENTICITY MOVEMENT, IN EDUCATION, REFLECTED IN ATTEMPTS AT MASSIVE EDUCATIONAL REFORM. IT IS ATTEMPTING TO MOVE AWAY FROM THE TRADITIONAL FRENCH-SYLTLE EDUCATION TO  
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DISCOVER AN EDUCATIONAL SYSTEM THAT BEST MEETS THE NEEDS OF THE COUNTRY. LACK OF PREVIOUS EDUCATIONAL LINKAGES AND EDUCATIONAL EXCHANGE HAVE LIMITED U.S. INFLUENCE IN THIS AREA. HOWEVER, BOTH THE RECTOR OF THE UNIVERSITY OF CHAD AND THE DIRECTOR OF THE INSTITUTE RESPONSIBLE FOR EDUCATIONAL REFORM HAVE BOTH RECENTLY RETURNED FROM THE UNITED STATES ON INTERNATIONAL VISITOR GRANTS. INCREASED EDUCATIONAL LINKAGES AND INTERCHANGES -- BOTH WAYS -- WILL AUGMENT U.S. INFLUENCE AND ENABLE THE UNITED STATES TO MAKE A SUITABLE AND, ONE HOPES, SUBSTANTIAL CONTRIBUTION TO A CHADIAN EDUCATIONAL SYSTEM. INPUT TO THE PROGRAM IS BEING ADDED BY AN AID-FINANCED HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT PROJECT.

4. THE PRESENT GOVERNMENT WAS DISAPPOINTED IN THE LACK OF U.S. MILITARY ASSISTANCE DUEING THE RECENT FIGHTING WITH REBEL INSURGENTS IN THE NORTHERN PART OF THE COUNTRY. HOWEVER, AS A COMMUNICATIONS EXPERIMENT, THE EXPERIENCE HAD PRACTICAL RELEVANCE TO BILATERAL COMMUNICATIONS BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES. MISSION OFFICERS, PARTICULARLY THE AMBASSADOR AND THE

PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICER, SPENT GREAT AMOUNTS OF TIME EXPLAINING TO CHADIANS THE ROLE OF CONGRESS IN FOREIGN POLICY FORMULATION, THE CONCEPT OF THIRD-COUNTRY ARMS TRANSFERS, AND THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN QUOTE LETHAL UNQUOTE AND QUOTE NON-LETHAL UNQUOTE WEAPONS. OUR LACK OF ASSISTANCE WAS MADE NO LESS PALATABLE BY THESE EXPLANATIONS, BUT THERE IS NO DOUBT THAT CHADIAN GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS BEGIN UNDERSCORE UNDERSTAND END UNDERSCORE (INTELLECTUALLY IF NOT EMOTIONALLY) HOW THIS ALL CAME ABOUT. FOR A COUNTRY LIKE CHAD, FOREIGN POLICY EXPLANATION MUST BE INTRICATELY LINKED WITH THE EXPLANATION OF THE POLITICAL PROCESSES THAT BRING THE POLICIES ABOUT. TO SEPARATE THE TWO WOULD BE A MISTAKE.

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5. ECONOMIC ISSUES, INCLUDING MANAGEMENT, HAVE GENERALLY BEEN EASY TO DEAL WITH BECAUSE OF THE PRACTICAL NATURE OF SUCH PROGRAMMING. THE PRESENCE OF CONTINENTAL OIL COMPANY OF AMERICA (CONOCO) IS REGARDED AS A POSITIVE AND VITAL FACTOR IN THE COUNTRY'S ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PLANS, ESPECIALLY AS RELATED TO

ENERGY. THE PETROLEUM PROGNOSIS IS FAVORABLE AND IT IS ASSUMED THAT CONOCO IS, FOR THE PRESENT TIME, ABOVE THE POLITICAL ARENA AND WILL CONTINUE TO BE IMPORTANT TO A CHADIAN GOVERNMENT OF ANY POLITICAL COLORATION. AMERICAN ECONOMIC INTERESTS CANNOT HELP BUT INCREASE IN THE NEAR FUTURE IN CHAD, AND, IF PETROLEUM CATAPULTS CHAD INTO THE MODERN ECONOMIC WORLD, THE UNITED STATES WILL HAVE PLAYED A VITAL ROLE. CHADIANS RECOGNIZE AND APPRECIATE U.S. ECONOMIC PROGRESS AND WILL CONTINUE TO LOOK FORWARD TO ITS APPLICATION TO THEIR COUNTRY.

6. WHAT THE POST IS DEALING WITH, IN THE FINAL ANALYSIS, IS A GENERALLY RECEPTIVE, THOUGH ILL-INFORMED, PUBLIC, PRAGMATIC IN ITS APPROACH TO PROBLEMS AND IDEAS, FOR THE PRESENT TIME NON-IDEOLOGICALLY COMMITTED. IT IS UNCLASSIFIED

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A COUNTRY THAT HAS SUDDENLY TAKEN ON GEO-POLITICAL IMPORTANCE TO UNITED STATES AFRICAN AND MIDDLE EAST POLICY. ITS GOVERNMENT IS A FRAGILE ONE WITH PERHAPS INSOLUBLE NORTH-SOUTH (MUSLIM-AFRICAN) PROBLEMS. SOME SAY CHAD SHOULD NOT EXIST AS A COUNTRY; BUT IT DOES. THE UNITED STATES IS COMING TO GRIPS, IN AN AFRICAN CONTEXT, WITH THE EXISTENCE OF CHAD AND CHAD IS NOW BECOMING AWARE OF INCREASED U.S. INTEREST. THE COMMUNICATION RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES WILL INEVITABLY INTENSIFY AND THE CHALLENGE WILL BE TO SUCCESSFULLY WEATHER THE INEVITABLE POLITICAL STORMS AND SUPPORT LONG-RANGE U.S. INTERESTS IN CHAD. SCHRAGER

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## Message Attributes

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